

FOUR INTERESTING AUSTRALIAN BEES, IN THE
COLLECTION OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

By T. D. A. COCKERELL.

Gastropsis victoriæ, n. sp.

♂. Length about $15\frac{1}{2}$ mm.; black, shining, and punctured; face very narrow, covered with long light yellow hair; eyes very large, converging above; ocelli very large, placed somewhat nearer to antennæ than to top of head; occipital region very little developed; antennæ ferruginous beneath, mainly black above; scape short but not very stout; first joint of flagellum slender and greatly elongated, quite as long as the next five united; last joint truncate with rounded edges, and shining beneath, the apical joints not especially swollen; anterior margin of clypeus with two shining dentiform processes, the rather wide interval between them concave; maxillary palpi six-jointed, the last three joints slender, the last linear and longer than the one before; blade of maxilla short, not as long as the palpus, with a fringe of rather long hairs at the end; labial palpi four-jointed, joints one and four of the same length, two and three equal and shorter than one, or two perhaps the shortest; paraglossæ short, broad, and rounded, subpyriform in outline; tongue short, broad, obtuse, bristly, the upper surface in the dry specimen occupied by a deep pit; malar space practically obsolete; mandibles entirely black, bidentate; mesothorax convex, with dense punctures, except on the posterior middle, where they are sparse on a shining ground; scutellum closely punctured but shining; post-scutellum large and convex; area of metathorax finely granular, triangular, with all the angles greatly produced and acute; hair of thorax yellowish white, except on hind part of mesothorax and scutellum, where it is black or fuscous; tegulæ large, rufo-piceous; wings somewhat dusky and stained with yellowish; nervures piceous, stigma obsolete; marginal cell long and narrow, slightly pointed at the end; basal nervure falling far short of transverse-medial; second submarginal cell very broad, only moderately contracted above, receiving the first r. n. before its middle; third s. m. a trifle larger than second, but not nearly so large as first, receiving the second r. n. about its middle; legs black, hairy; the anterior tibiæ, and a spot at apex of their femora, red, their tarsi also mainly ferruginous, while the outer margin of the tibiæ is blackened; middle tarsi dark red, with fuscous hair; inner face of hind tibiæ covered with a fine greyish-white tomentum; inner face of hind tarsi with reddish hair; spurs ordinary, hind margin of hind spur minutely ciliate; claws deeply bidentate; abdomen broad and convex, not at all tapering or conical, shining and punctured, hairy but not banded, nor are the hind margins of the segments pallid; the hair on first segment and basal half of second is dull white, on the others black or fuscous, except on the two last, where it is light yellow; apical plate of abdomen truncate, not bidentate.

Hab. South Australia, "70. 19." (type); Victoria, "85. 108." Both specimens have been in some liquid, so allowances must be

made for the description of the pubescence. The specimen from Victoria was collected by Mr. F. du Boulay. I have described this curious bee at some length, because I think it may form a new genus; but, in the absence of a more complete knowledge than we as yet possess of the mouth-parts of *Gastropsis pubescens*, it seems best to defer the proposal of a generic name. I have elsewhere (Canad. Entom. 1904, p. 304) stated that *Gastropsis* appears to be allied to *Meliturga*. *G. victoriae* has many characters that remind one of *Meliturga*, but the elongated tongue and labial palpi of the latter are very different. However, it is known that among the Andrenids and Halictids allied forms may differ much in the length of the tongue and palpi, and I am not inclined to believe that the resemblances just mentioned are illusory. It is much to be desired that we should learn something about the habits of *Gastropsis*.

Anthoglossa aureotincta, n. sp.

♀. Length about 13 mm.; black, with the hind margins of the first four abdominal segments pale orange-golden, the first rather narrowly, the others broadly, and with overlapping white hairs, forming thin marginal bands. Head broad; facial quadrangle a little broader than long; antennæ entirely black, except that the flagellum may be called brown-black beneath; clypeus with very large punctures; anterior margin of clypeus and the convex labrum dark ferruginous; mandibles slender, not elbowed, bidentate, bright red in the middle; hair of sides of face, and cheeks, long and white; of regions around antennæ, and occiput, tawny; mesothorax dull, minutely granular, its rather short hair fuscous-tipped, its plumosity so fine as to be visible only with the compound microscope; hair below tegulæ tawny, but lower down it is white; tegulæ dark brown, microscopically tessellate; area of metathorax with a dull subsericeous surface, which under the compound microscope is seen to be entirely covered with an exceedingly minute raised network; wings nearly clear, with light purple iridescence; stigma obsolete; nervures piceous; second s. m. broad, not greatly narrowed above, receiving the first r. n. about its middle; third s. m. very long, much longer than second, but not so long as first, and receiving the second r. n. near its end; marginal cell long, narrowly truncate; basal nervure falling a little short of t. m.; legs black, with copious hair, which has more or less of a golden tint, that on hind femora long and loose, conspicuously plumose; there is no knee-plate at base of hind tibia, but there is a more or less defined area, on which the hair is short and dark coppery fuscous; basal joints of middle and hind tarsi much broadened and flattened, the second joint also larger than usual, and heart-shaped; abdomen broad, with a sericeous surface; apical fimbria copious and pale chocolate-colour.

Hab. Perth, W. Australia (H. W. J. Turner). Closely allied to *A. sericea*, Smith, but differing in the colour of the flagellum, tegulæ, tibiæ, and tarsi, as well as the apical fimbria. These species are not very close to *A. plumata*, and they will

probably be removed from *Anthoglossa* at some later date. *Lamprocolletes venustus*, Sm., has golden abdominal bands like *A. aureotincta*, and is, I believe, congeneric with it; it may be separated by its smaller size and ferruginous scape, as also the colour of the legs. *Paracolletes marginatus*, Sm., seems also to be closely allied; it has the tibiæ and tarsi a lively red.

PROSOPISTERON, n. genus.

Small bees, similar in most respects to *Prosopis*, but with an enormous stigma, much larger than the areas of the submarginal cells combined, pointed at both ends, its apex on costal margin; body black marked with yellow (but no yellow on face), practically without hair, but margin of tubercles fringed with fine plumose pubescence, clearly visible under the compound microscope; second submarginal cell scarcely half length of first, and receiving both recurrent nervures, near its base and apex respectively; basal nervure curved, and falling a little short of transverso-medial; surface of wing with many very short black bristles; mesothorax microscopically reticulate, and with large punctures; scutellum similarly sculptured; base of metathorax microscopically reticulate, appearing dull and granular under a lens, the enclosure not distinctly defined; face fairly broad, microscopically strigulose or aciculate; anterior edge of clypeus concave; ocelli rather large, amber-colour; labrum with a truncate process; mandibles stout, simple; malar space short but distinct; antennæ quite ordinary; abdomen with a sericeous surface, the fine microscopical striæ transverse; legs quite ordinary, all the claws strongly bidentate or bifid.

Prosopisteron serotinellum, n. sp.

♀. Length about $6\frac{1}{2}$ mm.; black, with the upper border of the prothorax broadly, and the tubercles, orange-yellow; abdomen slightly purplish, with a sericeous surface; antennæ long, black, the flagellum dark brownish beneath; stigma dark sepia-brown, nervures piceous or black; a dark fuscous cloud occupying nearly all of second submarginal cell and much of apical part of first; tegulæ black, shining; spurs pallid.

Hab. Queensland; "Ridg. 11. 93., 715" (Gilbert Turner). A very remarkable bee, easily known by the gigantic stigma.

Euryglossa ichneumonoides, n. sp.

♂. Length about 7 mm.; head and thorax black, legs and abdomen yellowish ferruginous; hair of head and thorax long, delicately plumose, white, except on the upper part of head and thorax, where there are some long black hairs, especially noticeable on hind part of scutellum; maxillary palpi very long and slender; antennæ very long, black, flagellum faintly brownish beneath; clypeus very shiny, with large well-separated punctures; front and mesothorax dull; tegulæ shining rufo-testaceous; wings hyaline, beautifully iridescent, the large stigma and the nervures ferruginous, the latter rather dark; second submarginal cell very large, a little longer than the first below, receiving the first r. n. a considerable distance from its base, and the

second near its apex; marginal cell pointed; basal nervure not reaching transverso-medial; femora somewhat dusky basally; abdomen with a purple lustre, and somewhat infuscated at base and apex; apical plate projecting, rounded.

Hab. W. Australia; "47. 109." At first sight one would take this for a small ichneumonid, but it is a true bee. The very large second submarginal cell is peculiar, and the species is one of several which for different reasons will be eventually removed from *Euryglossa*.

ERRATUM.—'Entomologist,' February, 1905, p. 37, line 16, for "it has gigantic ocelli, such as are not seen," read "it has not gigantic ocelli, such as are seen."

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF ICHNEUMONIDÆ FROM CAPE COLONY.

BY P. CAMERON.

Asphragis ? flavo-orbitalis, sp. nov.

Rufo-testaceous; the eye orbits broadly, face, clypeus, mandibles except at the apex, where they are black, the pleuræ and the apices of the abdominal segments narrowly, yellow; the flagellum of the antennæ black; wings hyaline, the stigma testaceous, the costa and nervures black. Female. Length of body and ovipositor 5 mm.

Head smooth, the face weakly punctured, almost bare. Malax space as long as the antennal scape. Thorax closely punctured; almost bare. The mesonotum and scutellum are yellow; the former has a broad brown line down the centre of the basal half and one on the sides, commencing behind the middle and extending to the apex. Metanotum transversely punctured; there is a smooth line down the centre; the apex is smooth; behind it is bordered by a keel. First abdominal segment smooth, its apex finely closely striated; the second more strongly striated; the striæ are close and extend near to the apex; the third is minutely closely punctured; the other segments are smooth. Cerci and sheaths of ovipositor black. The recurrent nervure is received at a greater distance than the length of the transverse cubital nervure from the latter; the transverse median distinctly beyond the transverse basal; the recurrent nervure is largely bullate in front. The apical nervures in the hind wings are obsolete; the transverse median is unbroken.

This agrees fairly well, generically, with the species I have described (Trans. South African Phil. Soc. xv. p. 201) as *Asphragis ? rufipes*; but in the present species I cannot detect any pectinations on the claws. If not an *Asphragis*, there is no described genus to which it can be referred.